

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER # 279

Relating to the Creation of Reentry Task Force

WHEREAS, nearly 9,000 inmates are released from prisons into Wisconsin communities each year;

WHEREAS, many thousand more are released from jails, and several thousand individuals are on community supervision;

WHEREAS, the public is best served if offenders are not only held accountable for their actions, but also have the opportunity to become law-abiding and successful members of the community;

WHEREAS, prisoner reentry is a crime prevention strategy, with the goals of reducing crime and the number of crime victims, saving state and local criminal justice costs, and most importantly, ensuring safer families and communities;

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Corrections has taken active steps to implement a prisoner reentry philosophy, and agency and community partnerships are necessary to ensure continued support and success;

WHEREAS, Wisconsin residents can benefit from a coordinated statewide approach to implementing reentry strategies;

WHEREAS, a multi-agency Task Force will help establish a more systematic approach to identifying obstacles that impeded successful reentry and developing and implementing effective reentry strategies that improve public safety;

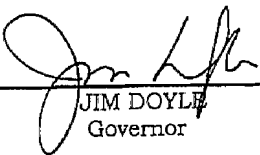
NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIM DOYLE, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of this State, specifically by Section 14.019 of the Wisconsin Statutes, do hereby:

1. Establish a multi-agency Reentry Task Force;
2. Direct the Reentry Task Force to:
 - a. provide coordination at the executive level of reentry initiatives across the state and ensure eligibility for Second Chance Act Grant opportunities;
 - b. identify methods to improve collaboration and coordination of offender transition services, including cross-agency training and information sharing, that will help to improve outcomes of offenders and offender's families;
 - c. establish a means to share data, research and measurement resources in relation to reentry initiatives;
 - d. identify funding areas that should be coordinated across agencies to maximize the delivery of state and community-based services, as they relate to reentry;
 - e. identify areas in which improved collaboration and coordination of programs and activities would result in increased effectiveness or efficiency of service delivery;

- f. promote areas of research and program evaluation that can be coordinated across agencies with an emphasis on applying evidence-based practices to support treatment and intervention programs for offenders; and
 - g. conduct a review of existing policies and practices and make specific recommendations to the Governor for system improvement and on how state laws may be improved in order to reduce recidivism;
3. Provide that the Governor shall make the final selections and respective appointments to the Council which shall consist of no more than nine members consisting of the following:
 - The Secretary of the Department of Corrections;
 - The Secretary of the Department of Health Services;
 - The Secretary of the Department of Children and Families;
 - The Secretary of the Department of Workforce Development;
 - The Secretary of the Department of Commerce;
 - State Superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction;
 - A representative from the Department of Justice to represent crime victims;
 - A representative from county or local law enforcement; and
 - A representative from county or local behavioral health departments;
3. Direct Department of Corrections Secretary to serve as the chairperson of the Reentry Task Force, and further direct the Department of Corrections to staff the Reentry Task Force; and
4. Provide that the Reentry Task Force shall meet at least four (4) times per year.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this seventeenth day of April in the year two thousand nine.



JIM DOYLE
Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State